

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)	
)	
of the Educators Certificate of)	CONSENT ORDER OF SUSPENSION
)	
Lisa M. Treese)	
)	
Certificate # 150176)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on October 7, 2003. On February 11, 2003, the State Board issued an order of summary suspension of Lisa M. Treese's South Carolina educators certificate # 150176 (certificate). On February 13, 2003, the State Department of Education (Department) sent a notice of hearing regarding the possible suspension or revocation of her certificate to Ms. Treese by certified mail, return receipt requested delivery restricted to addressee. Ms. Treese received the notice as evidenced by a signed postal receipt. Ms. Treese initially requested a hearing but through her attorney, Deena Smith McRackan, Esquire, agreed with the Department to resolve the case without a hearing upon the following terms: (1) Her certificate will be suspended from September 25, 2002, through April 25, 2004, (2) The suspension will be reported to the NASDTEC clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts on the statutory grounds of unprofessional conduct, and (3) She will be required to successfully complete a course or program in sensitivity training approved by the Department before her certificate is reinstated. After considering the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board voted to accept the suspension of Ms. Treese's certificate as agreed to by the parties.

Ms. Treese holds a valid South Carolina certificate, and has over fifteen years of teaching experience, and has had no prior reported disciplinary experiences. She was under contract with the Horry County School District (District) for the 2002-2003 school year as a teacher of hearing impaired students at Homewood Elementary School. On September 25, 2002, she was suspended following an investigation into allegations that she spoke to and about her students in an inappropriate and unprofessional manner and that she inappropriately disciplined them. She did not

return to the classroom. On November 22, 2002, she entered into a settlement agreement with the District and agreed to resign effective January 31, 2003. The District provided the Department with numerous statements from staff members and students who witnessed Ms. Treese's misconduct.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." Just cause includes: "unprofessional conduct." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (1990); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regulation 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that the preponderance of the evidence presented by the Department, supports its decision to accept the proposal of the parties to suspend Ms. Treese's certificate. Accordingly, the Board hereby suspends Ms. Treese's certificate # 150176 from September 25, 2002, through April 25, 2004, on the terms and conditions set forth above.

South Carolina State Board of Education

/S/ Greg Killian

Greg Killian

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

October 7, 2003

I, Lisa M. Treese, SC Teaching Certificate # 150176, do hereby agree to this Order of Suspension, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the State Board of Education on Tuesday, October 7, 2003

10/07/03
Date

/S/ Lisa M. Treese by
Deena McRacken, her attorney
Signature